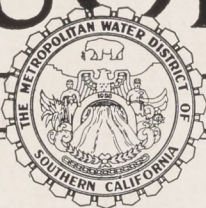


• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XVI

MARCH 1949

NUMBER 3

Hearings on Colorado Water Bills Underway

On March 21, the U. S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs opened hearings on the Central Arizona Project bill (S-75) and the joint resolution to authorize a Supreme Court settlement of the Arizona-California Colorado River dispute (S.J. Res. 4). Hearings on the two measures were scheduled to get underway in the House of Representatives before the end of the month.

California witnesses appearing before Senate and House committees were prepared to show that the Arizona project is fantastically infeasible and if authorized would take Colorado River water for which California has long standing contracts and has made enormous investments. California's witnesses were ready to cover the following points:

1. *Cost.* The cost of the project is set at \$738,000,000, and, on some assumptions, will exceed a billion dollars. This is more than the cost of T.V.A. or the St. Lawrence Seaway, and about five times the cost of the Boulder Canyon Project.

2. *Area benefited.* The T.V.A. and the St. Lawrence Seaway Project are designed for the benefit of millions of people in several states, whereas this project is proposed for the "rescue" of 200,000 acres of land rushed into production during the war boom days. Hundreds of wells were drilled to "mine" the ground water which was known to be inadequate.

3. *Cost and values per acre.* Central Arizona land is worth about \$300 per acre. Much of the desert land put into cultivation during the war, which will be "rescued" by this project, was bought from the State at a fraction of that price. But at \$300 per acre, the whole irrigated area of Central Arizona, about 700,000 acres, has an estimated land value of \$210,000,000 and the 200,000

(Continued on Page Two)

Work Starts on Feeder Line to Bring Colorado River Water to West Basin Area

Ground breaking ceremonies on February 25 marked the start of work on the Metropolitan Water District's \$1,600,000 feeder pipeline which will supply Colorado River water to the six cities and other areas comprising the

West Basin Municipal Water District.

As a giant shovel tore into the earth to make way for the 45 inch diameter pipeline at the Metropolitan Water District's distribution systems connect-

(Continued on Page Three)



This was the scene last month as brief ceremonies marked the beginning of work on the Metropolitan Water District's \$1,600,000 feeder line to the West Basin Municipal Water District. City officials and officers of the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Metropolitan Water District are shown as follows: From left to right, front row, are: O. A. Gierlich, City Engineer, Manhattan Beach; W. C. Farquhar, West Basin Municipal Water District official; Julian Hinds, General Manager and Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water District; August H. Riess, R. T. Hutchins and Ralph W. Pritchard, Treasurer, President, and Secretary, respectively of the West Basin Municipal Water District. Next row, above, shows Mayor William F. Suppe, Manhattan Beach and Mayor Adams W. Bolton, Gardena. In the cab, left to right, are Mayor Charles H. Wortham, Redondo Beach; Warren Butler, Vice Chairman, and Joseph Jensen, Chairman, of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors, and, shown at the controls, Robert E. Austin, who represents the West Basin Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors.

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306 West Third Street
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Water Rights Can Be Lost, Clubwomen Told

Southlanders were warned this month by Mrs. Leiland Atherton Irish, widely recognized social and civic leader, that a complacent attitude in the Colorado River controversy could result in substantial loss of California's water rights.

"You've got to stop thinking that when you turn on the faucet at the kitchen sink that water in any quantity will always instantly flow out. It could be just a trickle or nothing at all," Mrs. Irish told more than forty prominent clubwomen and social leaders during the course of a Colorado River Association sponsored tour of Colorado River projects.

"Publicly informed men of this part of the state are of the opinion that the only way to settle the issue is by means

of a Supreme Court decision. Congress can make this possible, but public interest must be real enough to warrant such action.

"Because we women recognize what a lack of Colorado River water will mean to our families and our communities, some of us have accepted the

(Continued on Page Three)

Water Hearings

(Continued from Page One)

acres at stake represents about \$60,000,000. By contrast, this project will cost not less than \$738,000,000. If only half that amount is allocated to irrigation, the cost per acre of land "rescued" is about \$2,500 and the cost of the whole project is four or five times the value of all the agricultural land in Central Arizona.

4. *Financing.* The capital cost is not expected to be repaid by Arizona. The water will be sold to irrigators at \$4.50 per acre-foot. This is less than the cost of operation and maintenance, even if a nominal charge is made for power for pumping.

5. *Sales of power.* Since the irrigators cannot repay the capital, it is planned to recover most of the huge cost through power sales, primarily to California, for enough to pay not only for the Bridge Canyon power dam, but also for the Central Arizona Aqueduct. The power users of California are thus expected to pay for the Arizona aqueduct, to take the water that the California projects were built to use.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds, filed March, 1949, covering District operations for February, 1949.)

Construction—Overall construction work at the softening plant was estimated to be 75 per cent completed on Feb. 18. Contractor's forces averaged 197 men. Crews were continually employed in the installation of piping, valves, operating equipment and mechanical sludge removal equipment. Concrete placement is 91 per cent of that required for completion.

Hoover Dam—Delivery to the Edison lines totalled 31,839,806 kw hr with a peak delivery of 104,500 kw. The water level at Lake Mead on Feb. 28 was at an elevation of 1150.99 feet, a drop of 7.05 feet for the month. The decrease in storage was 858,000 acre feet. The discharge at Hoover Dam averaged 21,800 cubic feet per second, up from 19,400 in January.

Parker Dam—The water surface in Lake Havasu varied between a maximum elevation of 446.0 feet and a minimum of 444.8. The discharge of the river at Parker Dam averaged 21,480 cubic feet per second, compared with 19,800 in January. Peak delivery to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation at Parker power plant was 68,000 kw.

Pumping—System pumping with one unit per plant was continued throughout the month.

Distribution—On Feb. 28 the water level in the reservoir was at an elevation of 1354.28 and available storage was 98,269 acre feet, an increase for the month of 2,688 acre feet.

Colorado River water was softened from a natural hardness of 338 parts per million to a finished water average hardness of 124 parts per million at an average rate of 55.8 cubic feet per second. The rate of inflow varied from 40.2 to 75.5 cubic feet per second.

All districts except Burbank, Compton, Glendale, San Marino and the West Basin Municipal Water District were on the line.

Water Sales—Softened water sales this month dropped to the lowest monthly rate since Feb. 1947 and were 42 per cent below Feb. 1948. Total water sales for the eight months were up 49 per cent.

Purchasing—Total expenditures covered by 254 purchase orders issued by the purchasing division in February amounted to approximately \$47,000.



A group of prominent Southland clubwomen and social leaders headed by Mrs. Leiland Atherton Irish, are pictured above standing in front of the Mathews Memorial at Lake Mathews, during the course of their tour of Colorado River projects this month. The group is spearheading a letterwriting campaign among Southern California women to call to the attention of members of Congress the urgent need of adopting legislation authorizing a Supreme Court settlement of the longstanding Colorado River water controversy between Arizona and California.

Rainfall Far Below Normal, Outlook Poor

By C. C. ELDER
Chief Hydrographic Engineer

Despite the rainfall, which has occurred this winter, its just an even chance that the season will end with a 60 per cent of normal record. The Los Angeles seasonal rainfall to date amounts to 7.35 inches or 60 per cent of normal. The normal for the entire season to June 30, the end of the weather year is considered to be 15.3 inches. Therefore, to have a normal season, eight inches of rainfall is still needed.

That much rainfall after the 15th of March has never occurred in all the years of record and therefore must be considered almost an impossibility. If you like figuring odds, it is about a 15 to 1 chance that we will not have as much as 75 per cent of normal rainfall.

The rainfall for the entire 1947-48 season comprising the weather year to June 30, was 7.22 inches, so at the present time we are about one per cent of normal better off than all of last year. Last year and the year previous (calendar years) were the two driest consecutive years in recorded history or since the first Spanish settlement in California.

Pasadena is about 65 per cent of normal at the present time and Long Beach about 60 per cent. San Bernardino is 78 per cent of normal while San Diego, on paper at least, seems to have fared best with rainfall about 11 per cent above normal to date. Unfortunately, however, this rainfall has been so well distributed that there has been little or no runoff to help fill their depleted reservoirs. Water need in this area has been so great that the San Diego-Colorado River aqueduct line has been used to its maximum capacity.

In more general terms, the entire coastal plain is about two-thirds normal, whereas the mountain range regions are almost normal.

In contrast with this is the fact that runoff forecast for the Colorado River by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation is predicted at 124 per cent of what it considers normal. Assuming normal runoff for March 1949, this means a 12-month runoff to Aug. 31, 1949 of 15,200,000 acre feet or only 10% above the 12-month normal of 13,800,000 acre feet, as last fall and winter flows were much below normal.

Water Rights

(Continued from Page Two)

added responsibility of forming the Women's Civic Committee for Colorado River Water."

Mrs. Irish stated that her group has started a letterwriting campaign appealing to members of Congress to approve the Supreme Court settlement resolution (H.J. Res. 3 and S.J. Res. 4) and to oppose the so-called Central Arizona Project bills.

Other members heading up the Committee's activities include Mrs. L. S. Rounsaville, Mrs. Ivy Grace and Mrs. James K. Lytle. During their tour, the women inspected work on the feeder line to the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Metropolitan Water District reservoir, Lake Mathews.

West Basin Feeder

(Continued from Page One)

ing point near Avalon and Redondo Beach boulevards, the officials of the two water districts, civic leaders and mayors of the West Basin cities heard Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Metro-

politan Water District's Board of Directors, outline the development plans, commensurate with requirements of the rapidly growing areas.

"This project is evidence of the ever-increasing need for Colorado River water which goes hand-in-hand with the tremendous growth of population in Southern California and the depletion of our other water resources."

Mr. Jensen declared that this great need for Colorado River water by the people of Southern California is the reason that the Supreme Court must be given the authority by the Congress to decide the respective water rights of Arizona and California.

The six cities to receive Colorado River water upon the completion of the pipeline early next year include Gardena, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, El Segundo, and Palos Verdes Estates. Other unincorporated communities such as Lawndale and Lomita, are also part of the West Basin Municipal Water District, which has a total population of 175,000. Robert E. Austin represents the West Basin Municipal Water District on the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors.



Shown above is, left to right, Franklin Thomas, Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California and Pasadena's representative on the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors; Robert Griffin, Colorado River Association, and Alfred Driscoll, Deputy City Attorney, assigned to the Department of Water and Power. This scene occurred during a broadcast this month over radio station KFVB, in which they reviewed the Colorado River controversy and its meaning to Southern Californians. They emphasized the point that the present battle to protect California's Colorado River water rights is one which will require the active assistance of every citizen in the region. The help of all our people is needed to get the facts in the issue to friends and relatives back East, they stated.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Presenting two District oldtimers—Ralph Stringfellow, who is Special Agent, and Homer Campbell, Station Electrician at the Intake Pumping Plant. Ralph has been nicknamed "The Eye" and his friends say that he should have been a swami, for he knows the past, present and future of everything about the District.

Marian Fletcher reports that Eugene Bowers, research chemist at the softening plant is the proud father of a son, Stephen Glenn, weight nine pounds, nine ounces, born on Feb. 20. The Bowers have two other sons.

Gordon Martens, attached to the survey party at the softening plant finally made that quick trip to the hospital on Feb. 22, that was reported in our last issue. There he found his wife Beverly had presented him with a daughter, Vicki Ann, weight six pounds, eleven ounces.

Our reporter didn't tell us, but Thomas Patterson, also with the survey party, may have ridden to the hospital in Gordon's car. Tom's wife, Mary, presented him with a son, Richard Thomas, weight four pounds, twelve ounces, the same day, and also at Pomona Valley Hospital. The Patterson's baby was born at 1:20 in the afternoon and the Marten's at 7:55 that night. Incidentally, both families had youngsters born a day apart last year.

Eddie Dussaman tells us that the social event held at Iron Mountain on March 4 was a big success with about 20 couples from Iron, Eagle and Hayfield present for the dance and refreshments. Credit for the event goes to the ladies at Iron Mountain who did the planning.

Ralph Adams reports the folks at Hayfield are rejoicing over the new sand filters which have been installed for their domestic water supply.

The Elmo Fields of Eagle are welcoming their son, Lt. Don Fields, back from 30 months with the A.A.F. in Japan. He is staying at Eagle.

Walt Roys reports that work is under way on the rifle range with the men anxious to start practice sessions before the warm weather starts.

Oscar Welch, formerly at Hayfield, has transferred to Camino, and Clifford Draper takes his place in utility work at the plant.

The womenfolk at Gene Camp have been busily engaged for many months in making fine ceramics, according to our reporter. Regular meetings have been held each Monday and they even have their own kiln now. Among the results of their work have been vases, ash trays and even "Smoos" which were the handiwork of Mrs. Bill Ralph. Some of the ladies, our reporter mentioned, whose work has been seen by him include the Mesdames Stevenson, Twiggs, Ralph, Russell, and Ketner.

Word comes that the fish are really biting at Lake Havasu. Harry Swango and Walt Murphy came in with over 15 pounds of bass as the result of one excursion. Their largest catch weighed over five pounds, it was reported.

The beautiful weather at Gene Camp is doing things to the gardens and Jimmy Ketner reports that he has a very nice bed of sweet peas.

Thomas William Bradshaw, who was originally employed by the District in 1936, was stricken with a heart attack and passed away on Feb. 18 at the Sawtelle Veteran's Hospital. He had been stationed at Gene Camp, serving as a utility man. A veteran of both wars, he was in the Canadian Army from 1916 to 1920 and with the See Bees of the U. S. Navy from June 1946 to October 1945. His sister in St. Paul, Minnesota, took charge of the remains.

A short course in water supply and treatment has been instituted at the softening plant under the direction of

"It's Our Birthday!"

	April
Chazaro, Louis G.	1
Green, Robert H.	2
Yaklowich, Nilda R.	4
Martin, Lester D.	5
Jahn, Harry F.	6
Adams, Ralph P.	7
Taylor, Earl H.	8
Jones, Harwood L.	11
Reed, Loyal D.	12
Koch, Eric W.	13
Lemcke, Willa R.	13
Potter, Grant C.	16
Carper, Hunter E.	17
Renstrom, Delmar J.	17
Cotton, Lester E.	20
Roys, Walter M.	20
Gandee, Kenneth S.	21
Convey, Frank J.	22
Crawshaw, Harris V.	23
Fox, George M., Jr.	25
Winn, W. P.	26
Diemer, R. B.	27
Hughes, Pauline	28
Lucas, Glenn T.	29
Thomason, S. B.	30

William W. Aultman and Lee Streicher of the plant's staff. The course which will consist of about ten Monday evening sessions starting at 7 p.m. at the plant, will cover the subject from the source of water through the various processes necessary to make it best adapted for domestic and industrial use. Equipment used and laboratory procedure will be covered also. All District employees are welcome to attend. About 40 are participating in the course which began on Feb. 21.

Marian Fletcher also observes that Barrett Brooks on Feb. 8, had been with the District for 15 years and never missed a day from work other than for three days of sick leave which had been granted him. Barrett is headhouse operator at the plant. Do we have similar records? Let the editor know about them and we'll be glad to credit the employees in print.

In case you haven't done so already, there is still time to make your contribution to the American Red Cross for its annual campaign. Better still, add a bit to what you have already given.

Our belated congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bill F. Kalla on their first born, little Miss Linda Diane, who has Jan. 14 as her birthdate. As we write, Linda is ill with a cold which we hope will be long gone by the time you read this. Bill is in the Accounting Department.